A BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE SEVERAL POPISH Treasons and Cruelties AGAINST THE PROTESTANTS In *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*.

Giving a Full Account of the

POPISH PLOT:

AND A

Full Discovery of the Manner of the Murther of

Sir Edmund bury Godfrey.

With Allowance.

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THE GREAT BIBLE

A Brief Narrative of the ſeveral *Popiſh* Treaſons and Cruelties againſt the Proteſtants, in *England*, &c.

WEll may we call *Popery* a Bloody Religion, if at leaſt we may afford the name of Religion to a thing made up of Idolatry, Uſurpation, Rebellion, and Cruelty: Amongſt other Chriſtian Nations, *England*, the Land of our Nativity, has ſuffered deeply under their Tyranny; Not to mention our King *John* poyſon'd by a Monk, nor the ſeveral Rebellions againſt that moſt pious young King, *Edward* the Sixth, which were chiefly occaſioned by the Prieſts, and deſigned to bring in the *Romiſh* Religion; We will come to the time of Queen *Mary*, who reſtored the *Popiſh* Trumpery, which her Father in part, and her good Brother wholly had ſuppreſs'd: In her five years time, there was more Chriſtian Blood ſpilt, concerning Religion and Matter of Conſcience, than had been ſhed in any one Kings Reign ſince Chriſtianity was firſt eſtabliſht in *England*. Then it was that divers of the chief Compilers of our *Book of Com-*

mon Prayer, sealed the Truths of the *Protestant* Doctrine with their Blood; *Fire* and *Faggot* were the Papists best arguments, and he that would not *Turn* against his Conscience to the Idolatrous *Mass*, must *Burn* for it; the Reverend *Ridley*, Bishop of London, and *Latimer*, Bishop of Worcester, were consumed to ashes at a Stake at Oxford; and some-time after the famous *Cranmer*, Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, suffered in like manner at the same place; Holy *John Bradford*, an excellent Preacher, and of a most sober Life, was burnt in Smith-field; as likewise *Saunders*, *Taylor*, *Rogers*, *Hooper* Bishop of *Gloucester*, and several other Godly Ministers. In one year there were burnt for Religion above 80 persons, besides those that dyed in prison; and in the next, 86, of which many were Women and Maids, and one a poor blind Woman, *Ann Askue* by name, who yet by Arguments from Scripture against the *Real Presence*, Confuted their most Learned Doctors. The total Number that suffered Death for their Religion in cruel manner in this Queens short Raign, is reckoned between 3 and 4 hundred, besides multitudes compelled to leave the Land, and undone by imprisonments. After her followed Queen *Elizabeth*, whose Name will ever be precious to all Protestants, who Establishing again the true Religion, 'tis impossible to recite in this Sheet the several Treasons, plots, and Conspiracies hatched against her Life and Government; sometimes the Pope cursed her, and gave away her Crown and Kingdoms, but the best is, none of those he bestowed them upon, were ever able to take possession; sometimes particular men were bribed with Money, or seduced with fancy of Merit, and promises of Heaven for the good service, to murther her; as *Parry* to Stabb or pistol her, *Squire* to poyson the pummel of her Saddle, *Throgmorton* to kill her in her Pallace, *Lopez* her Physitian to poyson her, for which he was to have

fifty

fifty thousand Crowns, but all these Traytors were from time to time discovered, and Executed according to their deserts: Then the *Pope* and *Spaniard* stirred up Rebellion in *Ireland*, and sent over Souldiers thither to assist the Rebels, but they were always defeated: at last they both joyned to invade the Land in the year 1588. but that mighty Spanish Fleet was scattered and beat to pieces, a very few of them escaping by flight to tell at home the News of the others disaster.

In the Raign of this most Vertuous Maiden Queen, happenned several instances of Popish Treasons and Cruelties in *France*. First, a most bloody Massacre in the year 1572. on St. *Bartholomews* day at *Paris*, The King of *Navarr*, and *Coligni* the Admiral of *France*, and most of the cheif Protestants being assembled at a Wedding to be solemnized between the said King and the Sister of the *French* King, on a sudden, when no such thing was in the least suspected, they were set upon, and in one night above twenty thousand Protestants in that one City were barbarously Butchered without any provocation or warning, insomuch that 'tis said the streets of *Paris* ran with blood in several places; And for the Admiral, against whom was their chiefest spight, they flung his body out of a Window, and caused it to lye in the open street to be devoured by Dogs and Vermine: Not long after that, *Henry* the Third King of *France* was traiterously murthered at the instigation of the Jesuites, because he was not so violent to persecute the Protestants as they would have him: then the lawful Heir of the Crown (as they themselves acknowledged) was *Henry*, Surnamed from his mighty actions afterwards, *The Great*, and Grandfather (by the Mothers side) to our Soveraign Lord King *Charles* the Second: but because he was a Protestant, they entred into a Confederacy, which they call'd, *The Holy League*, to keep him from

his

his Right; till at last he consented to the Roman Religion, but still imagining him not so zealous therein as they would have him, he likewise was some years afterwards murthered, being stabb'd by *Ravillac*, a Fanatical Jesuited Papist, in his Coach on the New Bridge at *Paris*, in the Year 1610.

Upon the same score, because King *James* was a Protestant, several Papists conspired to debarr him of his just right to the Crown of *England*, after the death of Queen *Elizabeth*: and two Priests soon after his coming into *England*, were put to death for plotting against his Life and Government. But in the 5*th*. Year of his Reign (Just 73 years ago this present Year 1678) The said Papists proceeded to such a Treason as the World never before heard of, commonly called, *The Gun-powder-Plot*, designed to blow up the King, Queen, Prince, and both Houses of Parliament at one Blast: but a Letter being sent from one of the Conspirators to a Lord, warning him not to come to the Parliament, because they should receive then a Notable Blow, &c. Search being made, 36. Barrels of Gun-powder were found under the Parliament-House, and *Faux* with a Dark Lanthorn standing ready at the time appointed, to give Fire to the Train: Upon which several persons concerned, and some Preists that encouraged them, suffered.

But if we would take a view of Popery in its true Scarlet Dye, and know what horrible Murthers, Prodigious Cruelties, Barbarous Villanies, and Inhumane Practices the Jesuits and Fryers are the Authors and encouragers, and Papists in general the Actors of, We need not look any further back than the present Age: In the Rebellion of *Ireland* wherein there were in all above Three Hundred Thousand Innocent Protestants destroyed, and this in a base Treacherous manner, without any provocation; No Age, Sex, or Quality being privileged from Massacres and lingring deaths, by being Robbed, Stript naked, and so exposed

exposed to perish by Cold and Famine, or else suddenly Hang'd, their Throats cut, Drowned in Rivers, Bogs and Ditches, or else Murthered with exquisite Tortures: Wives Ravisht before their Husbands faces, Children forced to hang up their own parents, others compelled against their consciences to own the Romish Superstitions, and swear thereunto in hopes to save their lives, and presently Murthered, as if they designed to destroy Souls as well as bodies: And such beastly Cruelties Acted as the most Barbarous Heathens would blush to practice. All which being Acted within these 40 Years, I hope is not yet, nor ever will be forgot.

But least it should, behold! they awake our remembrance with an horrid Plot, which in the consequence was like to have proved more Bloody and Barbarous than any that went before it, being against the Life of our Lord the King and all his good protestant Subjects, the Subversion of the Government, destruction of our Religion, &c. And what kind of Spirits were engaged therein, we may see by their Inhumane Murther committed upon Sir *Edmund-bury Godfrey*, who being one of his Majesties Justices of the peace for *Middlesex*: Upon the discovery, had the Examination of some Priests and others concern'd, whom he committed to *Newgate* on the 28. of *September* last; But meerly for doing thus his duty, others of the Tribe were so devilishly enraged against him, that they contrived his death: for on Saturday the 12*th*. of *October*, he walking out about 9 a Clock from his House near *Charing-Cross* on his usual occasions, was no more to be seen or heard of till the Thursday following, and then was found in a Ditch at a place call'd *Primrose-Hill*, near *Hampstead*, about 3 Miles from *London*, with his Cloaths and Money, nothing missing but his Band and a pocket-Book, wherein he had taken the said

priest

priests Examination; but his own Sword was run through his body, and so left in it: This the Villains had done intending to Murther his Reputation as well as his person, and persuade people that he Murthered himself, but in that the Devil made Fools of them, for there being no blood to be seen in the place: the soles of his Shoes clean, and especially a Circle about his Neck that shew'd he was *Strangled*; every body concluded he was killed before, and lately carried thither: Hereupon the King publisht a Proclamation, promising 500 *l.* reward, and pardon to any one concern'd that should discover the rest; and at last (though rather out of trouble of conscience than the invitation of that reward) There is a person come in who acknowledges himself privy to it; that on the said *Saturday* they wheadled in Sir *Edmundbury* into an Eminent House in the *Strand*, under pretence of bringing him to some that could discover more of the Plot, that there they forc'd him into a Room, and two Jesuits and one priest flinging him down, clapt a pillow on his face and sat thereon, till they thought they had *Stifled* him, but finding still some life, with a Neckcloth they *Strangled* him; then 'tis said, they laid the dead body for some time, under their Alter as the *securest place*; but of that there is *yet* no certainty. However, afterwards they carried it out in a Sedan to the end of the Town; and from thence in a Coach to the place where it was found, running his Sword through him on purpose to make people believe he killed himself, as before said.

These are the cursed fruits of *Popery*, the effects of Romish zeal and Charity. From which let all good Protestants with a just Abhorrence, ever pray to be delivered, and that God would still be pleased to preserve our most gracious King, and the Religion established, against all their Bloody plots, and Hellish Conspiracies.

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